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Summary record of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 21 May 2018, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Marie Chatardova ..... (Czechia)

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(c) Development Cooperation Forum

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18-08128 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (E/2018/55)

Opening statements

1. **The President** declared open the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session. Inequality, migration, climate change, the rise of violent extremism and populism and the shrinking of civic space posed challenges to hard-won development gains. Development cooperation, however, could turn those trends around and help to promote sustainable development for all. Capacity support, the sharing of technical know-how and multi-stakeholder partnership, in addition to financing, were essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The 2018 Forum was the culmination of an extensive preparatory process, which had included a symposium and the Development Cooperation Forum survey. The rich ideas and policy recommendations that would emerge from the Forum would be brought before the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2018. A key question was how to ensure that national strategies and support provided to developing countries met the aspirations set forth in the 2030 Agenda.

3. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that, although remarkable progress had been made, much remained to be done to build sustainable and resilient societies. Globally, 767 million people lived on less than $1.90 a day and some 793 million were undernourished. More than 300,000 women had died during pregnancy or childbirth and 5.9 million children under the age of 5 years had died worldwide in 2015. Most of those deaths had been from preventable causes. Gender inequality remained deeply entrenched and women and girls faced violence in all societies. Young people continued to face alarmingly high rates of unemployment. In 2014, 9 per cent of primary-school-aged children worldwide had been out of school. More than 2 billion people were living in countries that faced extreme water stress and 9 out of 10 city-dwellers were exposed to air pollution. Global warming was contributing to annual losses of between $250 billion and $300 billion through natural disasters.

4. More progress was needed on sustainable energy and greater investment in sustainable infrastructure. Good quality education must be brought within the reach of all. Least developed countries and other countries in special situations received too little official development assistance (ODA) or other forms of development funding, such as blended finance. Development partners should make a priority of meeting commitments with regard to ODA and improving its quality, and work with governments and stakeholders to improve its effectiveness. Targeted action was needed to remove barriers that kept women, young people, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, refugees and other vulnerable groups on the margins of society. Leaving no one behind was critical to ensuring a life in dignity for all, stemming the rising tide of populism and violent extremism and sustaining peace.

5. Governments alone could not deliver the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More had to be done to foster partnerships and facilitate the alignment of institutions, policies and actions with the 2030 Agenda. The private sector had a crucial role to play in fostering innovation, capacity-building and technology development and transfer, and in dramatically scaling up investment. Multi-stakeholder partnerships had the potential to deliver better and more sustainable development results. With regard to blended finance, public-private partnerships and investment agreements must be accompanied by solid regulatory frameworks, transparent fiscal accounting and adequate risk management.

6. South-South cooperation was delivering lasting results and strategies for boosting its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would be examined at the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which would be held in Buenos Aires in 2019.

7. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a collective responsibility. For that reason, the United Nations was repositioning its development system in order to improve its coherence, effectiveness and accountability at the country level. It was critical to increase the system's capacity to support the 2030 Agenda and the unprecedented scale of action and financing it required. The United Nations was committed to enhancing its approach to partnerships to help developing countries to mobilize the resources, expertise and technologies necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation (E/2018/55), said that development cooperation should remain focused on implementing the 2030 Agenda. Countries with limited capacity, in particular, needed support to move from simply managing disasters to reducing risk

and building resilience. National sustainable development strategies and development cooperation policies made it possible to better tailor development cooperation to the needs of beneficiary countries. Key issues included building capacity, strengthening domestic resource mobilization, generating high-quality data and fostering country-owned strategies and policies on science, technology and innovation.

9. Blended finance had considerable potential but ODA remained a vital source of development finance. The use of ODA for blended financing projects should be guided by principles of effective development cooperation. It was a source of concern that increasingly less ODA was being channelled into social spending. Efforts were required to bring the private sector into alignment with the principles of sustainable development, to broaden South-South and triangular cooperation and to strengthen the engagement of civil society, parliamentarians and local authorities, including in the monitoring of progress.

10. **Mr. Heimans** (Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Purpose), delivering the keynote address, said that development cooperation had traditionally been organized from the top down, with donors in a position of authority and beneficiaries comparatively passive and compliant. That approach left those whose lives needed to be transformed without agency. However, technological advances had spawned a new source of popular power that could be mobilized in support of any given cause. That had been illustrated by a social media campaign started by an 11-year-old pupil with a mobile telephone to save a school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from demolition prior to the Olympic Games of 2016. The campaign, which had been supported by Purpose, had not only prompted the mayor of the city to reverse the demolition order but had also led to a broad public debate on more accountable development in the run-up to the Games. Further examples included the Me Too movement against sexual harassment and a social movement in India combating sexual violence. Similarly, the wave of solidarity that had inspired people across Europe to welcome refugees arriving in 2015 had been unleashed by a social media campaign. Populist and nativist movements, too, had recognized the power of social media and were using them successfully to achieve their own ends.

11. Many movements emanating from social media campaigns were characterized by a lack of central leadership. Rather, anyone could adapt such campaigns to their own circumstances and cultural context, thereby unlocking powerful dynamics. The United Nations, therefore, needed to tap into and indeed feed the hunger of people who, from an early age, wished to change the world. One way of doing so and reversing the trend of declining trust in institutions was to emulate the approach of popular social media platforms in order to engage people and provide them with the opportunity to shape their own destiny. In that way, institutions could garner popular support for development cooperation.

12. **Ms. Randel** (Co-founder and Strategic Adviser, Development Initiatives), moderator, said that people had been left behind by the march of progress in all societies; the simple North-South dynamics no longer applied.

13. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Observer for Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, urged all countries that had not yet met the United Nations target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to ODA to make every effort to do so. The developed countries must fulfil their commitments and thereby support national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The decline in country programmable aid jeopardized the principle of country ownership and efforts to align international support with the priorities of developing countries. South-South cooperation had the potential to boost international efforts to achieve sustainable development but was no substitute for North-South cooperation. Moreover, South-South cooperation should be guided by the established principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

14. Technology had a role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals but developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States, were constrained by a lack of capacity and infrastructure. There was a need for rapid, universal and affordable access to information and communication technology and technology transfer to developing countries on favourable terms.

15. The Development Cooperation Forum should serve as a platform for discussing how to better align the efforts of specialized agencies and international financial institutions with the international commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Observer for Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the least developed countries, said that most of those countries had capacity for average growth of 4.8 per cent in gross domestic product, well below the minimum of 7 per cent set forth in target 8.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. On current trends, the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 could not be achieved and least developed countries, in

particular, would fall well short of that objective. They faced considerable gaps in investment, including for poverty alleviation, sustainable energy, public service delivery, information and communication technology and climate change adaptation.

17. Bilateral ODA, which was their chief source of external finance, remained far below the target of between 0.15 and 0.2 per cent of gross national income in ODA to least developed countries. Development partners should aim to reach that target by 2030. There was also a need for progress on the establishment of an international investment support centre for least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations that would help to stimulate foreign direct investment. The Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries would require sustained technical and financial contributions from Member States. Development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated least developed countries ought to phase the withdrawal of their support in such a way as to avoid any adverse impact on the development of those countries.

18. **Mr. Almino** (Observer for Brazil), drawing attention to paragraphs 9, 29, 38 and 41 of the report of the Secretary-General, underlined the importance of ODA investment in the social sector and the collection of statistics on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in countries most in need. South-South and triangular cooperation were helping to promote a shift from a narrow financial focus to a broader partnership approach and an emphasis on non-financial cooperation. Brazil had used the concept of trilateral cooperation to build guiding principles for triangular cooperation. Country-led systems devised by Southern partners to evaluate the quality and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes should be shared at the international level.

19. **Mr. Heimans** (Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Purpose) said that focusing too closely on the detail of which countries had or had not achieved the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income could distract attention from the broader need for advocacy of multilateral cooperation. That required bold new leadership to revitalize the debate on development cooperation.

20. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) emphasized the role that finance for development, innovation and science and technology cooperation had to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A fourth industrial revolution was underway and it remained to be seen whether it would benefit all. It was important, in that context, to determine how poor countries could best be helped to map out strategies and build capacity to achieve sustainable development.

21. **Ms. Randel** (Co-founder and Strategic Adviser, Development Initiatives) noted that the 2030 Agenda set out what needed to be done, while the ambition of leaving no one behind focused on whom should be helped: the approximately 20 per cent of the world's population that accounted for only 1 per cent of global income. Action was needed urgently not only in the social sector, but also in the areas of technology and energy, if those people were not to be left still further behind.

22. **Mr. Asthana** (India) said that greater clarity was required as to what constituted ODA. A tendency to count climate change finance as part of ODA was contrary to the spirit of the Cancun Agreements. Had all the developed countries that had committed themselves to meeting the 0.7 per cent ODA target done so by 2013, an additional $184 billion in aid would have been made available. North-South cooperation remained the backbone of development cooperation.

23. **Mr. Moraru** (Republic of Moldova) said that a common council for partnership which had been established in his country in 2011 provided a platform for dialogue between the Government, development partners and representatives of the private sector and civil society on sustainable development in line with national priorities. Development cooperation remained essential, given the scale of the investment required to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Support from development partners was needed to build capacity and effective institutions. It was encouraging to see more being done to harness private sector resources; blended finance and public-private partnerships would be critical for sustainable development.

24. **Mr. De Fraia** (ActionAid) said that, as the policies on and approaches to development cooperation evolved, there appeared to be a renewed understanding of the importance of the role of ODA and concessional financing. The needs of least developed countries and small island developing States could not be met by blended finance. The call in the report of the Secretary-General for a more systematic approach to the emerging principles for blended finance was welcome.

25. **Ms. Palomares** (Reality of Aid Network) lamented the decline in recent years in country programmable aid. The amounts allocated to ODA did not even cover aid that was tied to the purchase of goods and services from the donor countries and that therefore, in effect, the largest recipients of aid were the donors themselves. It was time to stop focusing on the quantity of aid while turning a blind eye to the trade-offs

involved in mobilizing finance. In addition to striving to meet their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national income to ODA, donor countries should ensure that aid was used to reduce poverty and inequality.

26. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that development was a long-term issue and it would be interesting to know more about the strategy of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and of the United Nations in general, in that regard.

27. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Secretary-General had called for the restructuring of the United Nations development system. The priorities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs were closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and United Nations agencies would develop appropriate strategies through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. The Member States, however, had ownership of the 2030 Agenda. The task of the United Nations was to mobilize support in order to facilitate its implementation by them.

28. **Ms. Randel** (Co-founder and Strategic Adviser, Development Initiatives) said that, although ODA represented only 8 per cent of financial flows to developing countries, it was nonetheless the most important source of development funding for some countries. Concern expressed by some about the danger of dilution and diversion of aid should be taken seriously. It was important not only to find the most effective means of leveraging ODA to stimulate other forms of funding but also to consider how the remaining 92 per cent of global funding and the 99.7 per cent of donor country resources that were not allocated to ODA could be harnessed in the interests of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Session I "Building sustainability and resilience through development cooperation"

29. **Mr. Miranda** (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation of El Salvador), panellist, said that the cost of mitigating and adapting to climate change placed an unprecedented fiscal burden on developing countries. Nevertheless, they received comparatively little from climate change funds, which continued to be instruments predominantly in the hands of the developed world and international organizations. The principle of efficient access to financial resources, as set forth in the Paris Agreement, was key to addressing climate change in those countries most in need of assistance.

30. National development policy priorities should form the bedrock of international development cooperation and it was essential that donor countries met the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. In that regard, the situation of middle-income countries, in particular in Latin America, needed closer examination; per capita income was an inadequate measure of a country's development. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had outlined several approaches to funding that could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Innovative and complementary forms of finance, including blending, public-private partnerships, debt swaps, loans and subsidies and remittance flows were essential. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would also depend on the quality of South-South and triangular cooperation. A project had been launched in El Salvador, in conjunction with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, to study how best to engage the private sector in the development agenda.

31. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine), panellist, said that conflict could galvanize the search for solutions to development problems that in peacetime might not receive sufficient political attention. Countries in conflict should seize the opportunities that such extreme situations presented, rather than simply wait for the return of peace. In Ukraine, women were making a growing contribution to the resolution of the country's difficulties and would continue to do so after the war came to an end. An increasing number of women were, for example, active in the security sector. Conflict, however, had exacerbated the incidence of domestic violence, with thousands of demobilized soldiers returning home to face unemployment and turning to alcohol, drugs and crime as a result. For all those reasons, addressing the issue of women's rights had become all the more important.

32. **Mr. Tiwana** (CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation) asked what could be done to ensure that national legislation complied with the international human rights framework, thereby enabling civil society organizations to access ODA funds.

33. **Mr. Sinirlioğlu** (Turkey) said that cooperation between Turkey and Somalia represented a concrete expression of the new way of working initiative that been the fruit of the first World Humanitarian Summit, which had been hosted by Turkey in 2016. Turkish doctors, engineers and teachers were working alongside their Somalian counterparts in a number of areas, delivering humanitarian and development assistance and building capacity. Turkey had allocated $8.1 billion to ODA in 2017, equivalent to 0.95 per cent of gross

national income. Some 80 per cent of that aid was dedicated to the social sector. ODA allocations to basic education had increased, in particular in Afghanistan, where Turkey had built and fitted out 90 schools for girls and boys. Humanitarian aid provided by Turkey had doubled in two years to $7.2 billion in 2017. Between 2010 and 2017, Turkey had earmarked $2.1 billion for assistance to least developed countries. The Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries would be inaugurated in June 2018 and would focus initially on technology needs assessments and issues relating to digital research access. All Member States and partners were invited to support the work of the Bank.

34. **Mr. García Javier** (Observer for the Dominican Republic) said that technology transfer had a key role to play in helping small island developing States to deal with climate change and its impact on agriculture and the availability of natural resources. In addition to increasing ODA, there was a need to identify ways of combining triangular with South-South cooperation. Notwithstanding the common assumption that the latter was merely a complement to North-South cooperation, its impact in Latin America and the Caribbean had been considerable, especially in terms of industrial development and technology transfer.

35. **Mr. Gehlen** (Germany) underlined the need to focus on finding the most effective means of addressing the needs of the poor. The ultimate goals of development cooperation were often obscured by political debate. The creation of a common platform for the delivery of sustainable development for all was a shared responsibility.

36. **Mr. McConnell** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that the spread of conflict, which had a dramatic impact on development, and increasing migratory flows posed significant challenges to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing Goal 16 and preventing conflict were therefore essential to success. Democratic, transparent institutions were vital for conflict prevention and peace, the mobilization of domestic resources and the collection of reliable data needed for development. Of equal concern was the situation of young people, who faced growing difficulties in finding employment as the pace of technological change accelerated. Alongside ODA and other forms of development finance, including through the involvement of the private sector, economic growth and development were key to addressing the needs of young people, many of whom were moving to cities and crossing borders in their search for work.

37. **Mr. Miranda** (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation of El Salvador) reiterated that per capita income was a misleading measure of development and eligibility for aid. Some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean had graduated and would therefore no longer qualify for ODA. Yet inequality was greater there than in any other region. Development and poverty had many dimensions, including education, health care and technology, on the basis of which more comprehensive assessments of the state of development could be made. Countries in the region were working with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on that very issue. There was a need to move from a development cooperation approach to one of financing for development and to consider new funding alternatives. Fiscal challenges and the question of debt must also be addressed in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine) said that the involvement of civil society was vital to the success of development cooperation, but that not all civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had equally credible standing.

39. **Ms. Adamson** (Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations), panellist, said that, with regard to development, more attention should be paid to the views of those working in the field and more should be done to ensure access to funding by NGOs. The attitude of the United Nations towards NGOs also needed to improve.

40. The European Union encouraged its member States to meet their ODA target commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Total expenditure by the European Union and its member States on ODA in 2017 had been in the order of $90 billion. The European Union viewed the United Nations as the guardian of the 2030 Agenda, the universality of which it endorsed, and sought to empower countries that received aid. Ultimate responsibility for development policy lay with national governments and their partners. The European Union had recently launched its new European consensus on development, a policy on resilience and an external investment plan. The aim of the latter was to raise €44 billion in public and private investment in Africa and countries neighbouring the European Union by 2020. The European Union was also contributing €500 million to a joint programme with the United Nations to combat gender-based violence and preparing its next multiyear financial framework for the period 2021–2027.

41. The European Union provided direct budget support to national authorities with a view to encouraging them to allocate more resources to the social sector. It took a broad approach to national resilience, aiming to strengthen the preparedness of States, societies, communities and individuals and to bolster their capacity to adapt to potential shocks, whether of a political, socioeconomic, environmental, demographic or security nature. By 2030, 62 per cent of people in extreme poverty were expected to be living in fragile settings, which underlined the need for development cooperation, including ODA, to become disaster-risk informed and sensitive to conflict.

42. Although it could play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ODA would never be enough. Interest was therefore growing in leveraging ODA in order to attract private capital. Efforts must also be made to encourage good governance and policies that fostered economic growth in developing countries. The donor community and Governments should look at what more could be done to shape policy regarding young people and to help them to enter the economy.

43. **Mr. Griffiths** (Director, European Network on Debt and Development), panellist, said that ODA was distinguished by the fact that it was a public resource focused on development, the use of which was guided by principles of effectiveness. Although the mobilization of private finance was important, the 2030 Agenda was above all a call to arms for increased public investment in education and health for all and public expenditure on social protection and infrastructure. The main source of finance for such expenditure would naturally come from taxation and the mobilization of domestic resources. Nevertheless, ODA was important as a transfer of valuable public resources from the richest to the poorest countries. Hence the importance of achieving the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income and meeting climate financing commitments separately rather than as a part of ODA.

44. Some $32 billion in ODA was tied officially and much of the remainder informally, whereby the bulk of aid-related contracts were awarded to firms in the donor countries. It was imperative not to confuse the commercial interests of those firms with the development focus that ODA should have. ODA should be used following the internationally agreed development effectiveness principles. National ownership lay at the heart of those principles. According to a Development Cooperation Forum survey, 67 per cent of the developing countries surveyed had development cooperation plans and most of the remainder were putting such plans into place. Donor countries, however, were not especially keen to support such plans, with 40 per cent of those surveyed using parallel or only partially overlapping schemes to assess how aid should be used. Donors needed to be more serious about supporting national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Blended finance, which presented opportunities and risks, amounted to the use of public resources to subsidize private investment. Such subsidized private finance must be untied and safeguards were needed to ensure that its use did not result in the diversion of ODA funds. Blended finance was not suitable for use in low-income countries, to which ODA flows had dwindled. Moreover, country ownership models for using blended finance, which was funnelled through institutions over which developing countries had no influence, had yet to be established.

45. **Mr. González Peña** (Observer for Cuba) underlined the importance of meeting the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income and implementing a multidimensional approach to the measurement of development and poverty. The North-South breach continued to have a major impact on developing countries. Although Cuba was an island State with few natural resources and a population of only 11 million, it had rich experience in international cooperation, with more than 60,000 technicians currently working in more than 60 countries. The international community should focus on solving problems in the developing and most vulnerable countries rather that investing in the arms race.

46. **Mr. Herawan** (Observer for Indonesia) said that Indonesia had carried out more than 500 programmes in developing countries since 2000 and South-South technical cooperation constituted an integral part of its 2030 Agenda strategy. A single agency for international development cooperation, with a projected aid budget of $760 million in its first five years, would become operational in the second half of 2018.

47. **Mr. Asthana** (India) said that South-South cooperation alone could not be a major vehicle for development or the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change finance for developing countries agreed to under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Climate was separate from ODA.

48. **Ms. Padilla** (IBON International Foundation) said that the alignment of institutions with the 2030 Agenda should mean that the basic human rights of marginalized groups in the global South, including women, indigenous peoples and rural populations, were upheld and that their voices were heard at all levels of planning. ODA commitments must be met and development

effectiveness principles applied. There was as yet no way of measuring the development focus of private sector initiatives, including some involving blended finance. The private sector should be held to the same standards of transparency and accountability as other development actors. Much of the aid used in such initiatives was channelled through international development institutions with poor accountability mechanisms and many development projects in the South were having an adverse impact on recipients. The international community, in particular States, needed to do more to scrutinize such projects and ensure accountability in their implementation.

49. **Ms. Cederfelt** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that effective democratic institutions were important for development and poverty reduction. Alongside free and fair elections, the inclusion of all social groups in decision-making processes and the power of parliament to call Governments to account for their actions were prerequisites for a healthy democracy.

50. **Ms. Ghartey** (Ghana) said that economic, natural and other shocks were best handled at the national level, provided that institutions were strong. Development partners, however, showed little interest in investing ODA in prevention programmes. In Ghana, which was now considered a middle-income country, donors expected the Government to use its own resources to conduct environmental assessments and related work and then simply went ahead and implemented their own programmes.

51. **Ms. Randel** (Co-founder and Strategic Adviser, Development Initiatives) said that much remained to be done to ensure transparency in the use of subsidized private finance for development and in monitoring its impact. The work undertaken by Turkey in Somalia highlighted the potential for combining a range of approaches by different partners to varying aspects of development. While Turkey had demonstrated a greater appetite for risk than other development partners in the case of Somalia, large institutions such as the European Union could make investments on a scale that small contributors could not.

52. **Mr. Griffiths** (Director, European Network on Debt and Development) said that the mobilization of public opinion by civil society had been the key to ensuring the support of political parties and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for meeting that country's ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. The European Network on Debt and Development, which brought together 46 NGOs from around Europe, focused on encouraging donors to untie development aid and thereby to ensure that it was used well, which in turn would generate public support for ODA. There was an urgent need to improve the transparency of private finance and, to that end, the Network supported open contracting principles to keep all but the genuinely confidential aspects of development aid contracts in the public domain.

53. **Ms. Adamson** (Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations) said that strong leadership providing sound policies and good governance was needed to enable national authorities, together with broader society and aided by the international community, to assess progress and gaps with regard to development. The paucity of available statistical data that could contribute to such assessments must be addressed. With regard to climate change, the European Union should take the lead by producing and consuming in a responsible fashion and focusing development assistance more on adaptation. Donors should build on existing sources of resilience in developing countries rather than simply implementing their own programmes. One example of the kind of innovative thinking that was increasingly needed with regard to building resilience was a proposal to introduce drought-related insurance in Mali and Niger.

54. **Mr. Miranda** (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation of El Salvador) said that a council had been established in El Salvador to adopt a national climate change policy. Its members included parliamentarians, clergy and representatives of political parties and environmental groups; climate change and building resilience required broad social consensus. The time had come to examine all aspects of financing for development and, on that basis, establish a strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

55. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine) urged a greater unity of voice among the various international bodies. The matters under discussion in the framework of the Development Cooperation Forum should also be taken up by the Security Council and the human rights treaty bodies. The Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved without greater coordination at the international level.

56. **Ms. Randel** (Co-founder and Strategic Adviser, Development Initiatives) said that, for all the talk of global and national funding, poor people financed most of their own development. There was a need, therefore, to examine more closely local funding options and opportunities available to those who were most excluded.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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High-level segment
Development Cooperation Forum

Summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 21, May 2018, at 3 p.m.

Vice-President: Mr Matjila ..... (South Africa)
later: Mr. Mahmadaminov (Vice-President)..... (Tajikistan)

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Session 3: Getting better results for sustainable development: the role of national development cooperation policies

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18-08130 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (*continued*)

Session 2: Mainstreaming inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships and approaches in development cooperation: policy and legal frameworks

1. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), moderator, introducing the panel discussion, said that the discussion would focus on how to leverage comparative advantages brought by various development partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships and what sort of policy and legal frameworks could be put in place to make it most effective. Each partner made a different contribution; he thus invited the panellists to consider whether one general framework could accommodate all partners, or whether more detailed and tailored frameworks were needed. There were also questions regarding what type of support must be given and received from a particular partner and the linkages among partners. Each partner would also have different responsibilities, and he wondered how to build those varying responsibilities into the accountability framework.

2. **Ms. Fine** (Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)), panellist, said that her agency had significant experience with multi-stakeholder partnerships and what they could and could not be. A recent review of such partnerships had revealed that they had produced mixed results and should not be seen as a panacea for development. Thus it was important to be clear where they made sense and where another approach was more appropriate. The United States Government often had the role of funder for development projects, yet in the face of complex development challenges it was important to realize that more than money was needed — technology, new ideas and fresh approaches were also required, and multi-stakeholder partnerships could often bring together all the necessary institutions with those attributes. Her agency had also learned that it could be difficult to make projects inclusive in a meaningful way. Lastly, she pointed out that different partners had different objectives: private sector involvement was often transactional, whereas government partners were accountable to their legislatures and citizens for their use of resources. It was thus important that the expectations of all partners should be made clear from the outset.

3. **Ms. Mkhize** (Chief Director, Innovation for Inclusive Development, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa), panellist, said that partnerships for scientific and technological innovation must be aligned with national priorities and needs and use and strengthen existing capacities. Multi-stakeholder development partnerships were complex and should be viewed as long-term commitments.

4. In establishing partnerships, her department looked for policy clarity and balance of mandates in order to achieve a common purpose. It sought a holistic approach that included innovation along with piloting and testing to ensure that any technology brought from outside would be appropriate to the national context. Coherence was also needed between science, technology and innovation policy and development policy. Potential development cooperation partners must also be open to risk and willing to change their approach and engage in creative destruction as needed to achieve objectives, catalyse change in the system and build capacity.

5. The main challenge to development partnerships was that, for the most part, the resource commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for development had not been met. It was also a challenge to engage the private sector early enough in the process to allow a project to be scaled up adequately. Impact must be measured through both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

6. **Mr. Hoffman** (Board Member, Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Unreasonable Group), panellist, said that he was not a policy-maker; his perspective on multi-stakeholder partnerships was that of a problem-solver or entrepreneur. He was pleased to report that entrepreneurs welcomed the Sustainable Development Goals, as they provided a shared framework of problems that needed to be addressed. They could not wait for the policy-makers to complete their work, however, before starting work on solutions, and some entrepreneurs even tended to view policy as an obstacle to action rather than a help. It seemed to him that the policy-makers sometimes tried too hard to make the policy perfect before releasing it, rather than putting it out and letting the community refine the policy through experience. All the problems did not need to be solved beforehand.

7. The United Nations had established the Goals to solve the world's problems, but the people who would actually do the work had not been in the room when the policy had been made and their voices were not being heard. He urged the policy-makers to go out to the towns

and villages and study the problem-solving process from the ground up, even though it could involve getting dirty.

8. The Development Cooperation Forum reports he had read showed a major focus on project funding, but money alone did not solve problems; human capital and mentoring were just as important. Although the importance of funding could not be denied, without mentorship it was wasted. It was also important to measure not just the amount of money raised to fund projects but their real outcome and impact — for example how many people had been lifted out of poverty or how much the infant mortality rate had fallen.

9. He invited Governments to become involved with organizations like the Global Entrepreneurship Network, with a presence in 170 countries, which had been formed for the purpose of convening the solution providers. He also urged them to join the Unreasonable Group, which was creating public-private partnerships to solve the problems posed by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It aimed to hold a boot camp to brainstorm for solutions, like the one recently held on Goal 3 on health, on each of the Goals; hosts for the 16 other boot camps would be welcomed.

10. **Ms. Nicholls** (Canada) highlighted the importance of pursuing gender equality through diversifying partnerships and providing direct funding for local women's organizations in developing countries.

11. **Mr. Park** Chull-Joo (Republic of Korea) said that the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in sharing knowledge and best practices was no longer in question; civil society and the private sector had an increasing amount of influence in that context. It was also important for members of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries to be fully involved in policy-making and implementation of projects affecting them.

12. In his view, the traditional model where two central Governments met as donor and recipient to establish development projects was no longer working. Rather, Governments must establish a policy environment and regulatory framework for private sector involvement. He asked what was the biggest obstacle to private sector contribution to the achievement of the Goals.

13. **Mr. Almino** (Observer for Brazil) said that civil society organizations, academia and the private sector had a contribution to make to the achievement of the Goals but must maintain coherence through coordination with developing country Governments. In the view of his delegation, eligibility criteria for private sector partners were needed, which might include such aspects as the extent of technology transfer, employment generation, income generation and tax revenues, strengthening of productive chains and non-monopolistic practices. Cultural diversity, technical capacity and transparent management of funds allocated should also be considered.

14. **Mr. Motter** (Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)) said that policy-making was indeed painful and slow, but it was clear that no one actor had the solution to every problem; solutions had to be found within an integrated framework such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Policy-makers such as those in the United Nations should therefore give themselves more credit for creating an environment in which those problems could be addressed.

15. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that both a loose partnership framework with the main focus on beneficiaries and a more structured approach with clear criteria for private sector partners had been raised, and he wondered which seemed preferable to members of the panel.

16. **Mr. Hoffman** (Board Member, Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Unreasonable Group) said that the different stakeholders in a partnership might indeed have varying objectives in the short term, but in the end it would not be possible to achieve solutions on a global scale without unified objectives.

17. **Mr. Maestripieri** (Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation, Italy), panellist, said that his focus was the legal framework established in Italy to support multi-stakeholder partnerships.

18. His Government had established three legal entities in that area, the first being an inter-governmental committee on development cooperation that brought together the lead ministry in that area, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with other relevant ministries, such as Environment and Finance, taking a whole-of-government approach to ensure policy coherence. The second entity was the National Council for Development Cooperation, with some 80 members from all levels of government — central, regional and local — as well as civil society organizations and the universities. It had a consultative role on policy matters but also the ability to make proposals. It had opted for informal methods and had established working groups on various issues. The third was the Conference for Development Cooperation, which was convened every three years and had last met in January 2018. Its aim was to allow for open public

debate among stakeholders in order to raise public awareness of development cooperation, especially among the younger generation.

19. As an example of the work of those entities, he mentioned the working group established by the National Council on migration and development, currently a sensitive subject in Italy. It had convened a diaspora summit based on the experience of the various diaspora communities in the country, which had engaged civil society organizations, local government and the governments of the main countries of origin, which had resulted in an outcome document providing a common basis for action. The private sector, universities and civil society organizations had also worked together to provide policy guidance on energy that had been adopted at the government level.

20. **Mr. Gély** (Head of Division and Head of the Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation), panellist, focusing his remarks on the water sector, said that water-borne diseases were related to 3 to 5 million deaths per year, yet only 40 per cent of the transboundary water basins in the world were governed by international agreements.

21. It was important, moreover, to choose partners carefully when rethinking policy boundaries. In developing a transboundary agreement it would of course be necessary to work with the ministry responsible for water resources, yet many other areas, including, energy, trade, agriculture and security, were also involved. There was a lack of interest among youth in the water sector. He thus advocated for a move beyond partnership to the establishment of what he termed the "blue peace" movement, which would help to raise awareness among the new generation and attract funding for transboundary water projects.

22. A soft infrastructure of dialogue must first be created, both with private sector partners that were interested in profit and would also have a positive impact, and with the political leadership of countries who might have concerns over national security issues and sovereignty. It was important to work with the key brokers to advance the agenda, based on the principles of shared benefit, risk and responsibility. That dialogue would then create the conditions for implementation activities where the private sector could have a role. In a well-regulated policy environment, the private sector and multinational companies could have a role in data management, sharing and design, for example.

23. **Mr. Mohammed** (Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations), panellist, said that, as a small island developing State, Maldives had often asked itself whether the purpose of partnership was for development or for economic growth.

24. Maldives was a chain of 1200 islands, only 188 of which were inhabited. Economic sector growth and development thus represented different dimensions. Each island had infrastructure needs, for a harbour, hospital, bank, school, roads and more, the public goods needed in any city. It had experimented with public/private partnership in 2009, with mixed results. The private sector was necessarily driven by profit, whereas the public sector in most cases was driven by votes, and the difficulty lay in bringing the two together for inclusive growth. The tourism sector took the lead, but it had been difficult to transfer that growth to other sectors where there would be no profit. As an experiment the Government, when leasing islands for resort development, had asked developers to provide infrastructure on neighbouring islands, with limited success. There was also the difficult question of whether institutions were strong enough to monitor investment projects, given the remote location of many islands; perhaps institutional development should come first.

25. **Ms. Boethius** (Impact Hub Geneva and Accelerate 2030) said that many challenges could be solved by entrepreneurship, usually through technology-enabled solutions driven by engaged citizens and entrepreneurs. Her organization was based in Geneva, and because of its proximity to both the United Nations and a vibrant investment sector, had entered into a partnership with UNDP called Accelerate 2030, which aimed to identify entrepreneurs from developing countries to solve the problems posed in the Sustainable Development Goals. Impact Hub provided support, resources, visibility and connections to some 40 partners, with some unlikely allies. They achieved the best results when working with existing local structures and development actors. Entrepreneurs moved quickly, and in addition to a policy framework they needed an ecosystem and financial resources. It was important to understand and integrate the real needs of entrepreneurs and key stakeholders in the local context. It would be interesting to hear about successes, certainly, but also failures and what had been learned from them, in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

26. **Mr. Meja** (Reality for Aid Africa) said that the policy and legal framework was indeed important but it must be backed up by an enabling political environment. It was crucial to have effective institutions to enable multi-stakeholder partnerships, for if institutions were weak such partnerships would not work.

27. **Ms. Palomares** (IBON International Foundation) said that international development cooperation

frameworks tended to involve a narrow range of stakeholders, who were mainly international development cooperation partners. Non-governmental organizations were missing from the picture, and Governments should address the continued closing of civil space that undermined the ability of civil society organizations to advocate for human rights and accountability to the intended beneficiaries.

28. **Mr. Daoudi** (Morocco) asked whether the level of development cooperation was expanding or shrinking. Over time it seemed that lending institutions had replaced governments as providers of funding, and many developing countries currently found themselves in debt. Noting the gaps in scientific research and cooperation between rich and poor countries, he urged the promotion of technical cooperation if the international community was serious about closing that gap.

29. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) asked whether the institutions or the policy should come first, and how much predictability the private sector required when it came to development policy.

30. **Mr. Mastripietri** (Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation, Italy) said that in his country there were established relationships with civil society organizations, but involvement of the private sector in development cooperation required more precise setting of rules beforehand.

31. **Mr. Mohammed** (Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations) said that he agreed that rules, procedures and institutions must be in place before entering into such partnerships. It was possible for institutions to evolve, however. In 1972 when the tourism sector in Maldives had opened, the institutional framework to govern it did not yet exist, but the sector was mainly profit-driven. Building an airport was a bankable project with a clear return, but the need for public goods was minimal at the time. The development of the islands through building hospitals and roads was not necessarily bankable, however, and the scale factor was critical. Some islands had populations of only a few hundred people, yet they required the same services. In his view, institutions must play a major role and should come before multi-stakeholder partnerships.

32. **Ms. Fine** (Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)) said that she felt a sense of urgency in moving forward both with forming partnerships and building institutions. It was important to work on creating an enabling environment for the private sector and on building human capacity at the same time. The role of official development assistance (ODA) was to help countries manage and develop their own institutions and create an enabling environment. USAID was working on changing its culture for more engagement with the private sector.

33. **Mr. Gély** (Head of Division and Head, Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) said that a certain degree of entropy and creative destruction must be allowed. In order to accelerate progress towards realization of the water footprint principle and the right to water and sanitation, a policy must be in place before partnerships were formed.

34. **Ms. Mkhize** (Chief Director, Innovation for Inclusive Development, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa) said that partners must recognize that they were drawn together by a common purpose and also acknowledge that no one partner could do everything. Policy had its space, which should enable the private sector through political support at multiple levels, each within its respective mandate.

35. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), summarizing the discussion, said that the panellists agreed on the need for both policy and institutions to frame partnership and recognized the differing roles of partners.

36. *Mr. Mahmadaminov (Tajikistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

Session 3: Getting better results for sustainable development: the role of national development cooperation policies

37. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), moderator, introducing the panel discussion, said that one of the questions to be addressed in the panel discussion and subsequent informal discussions of national development cooperation polices was whether target-setting enhanced the overall effectiveness of such policies and if so, what sort of targets should be set. The best way to organize the regular review of development cooperation should also be addressed. In setting targets, partners must agree on what each partner was expected to deliver, and the targets must be appropriate to the contribution of each. Targets were the baseline for measuring progress, and what prevented them from

being used to understand and measure overall progress should also be examined.

38. **Mr. Daoudi** (Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance of Morocco), panellist, said that the Moroccan Government had established a specific policy on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and was working on new legislation to govern development cooperation between the private sector and the government, which its current laws did not cover.

39. Desalination of sea water along its 3000 km of coastline was an example of an area where such cooperation was taking place. Although Morocco was an oil producer, 40 per cent of national energy needs were met through renewable energy sources. It viewed the Goals as a long-term, intergenerational project which would help it meet its objectives regarding air quality, climate change, waste treatment and coastal biodiversity. With the private sector, Morocco had entered into a pilot desalination project and had constructed one of the world's largest solar farms.

40. The national strategy and the human resources development project were based on the review of the development policy and legal framework to foster partnership with the private sector. Under its national agricultural strategy for a green Morocco, the country had become a net exporter of agricultural products through use of desalinated sea water for agricultural irrigation and had registered 7 to 8 per cent annual growth in that sector. Better waste management and treatment also required significant capital. The goal was to ensure that all small and medium-sized cities had adequate sanitation facilities by 2030. Morocco held 75 per cent of the world's phosphate reserves, which were mainly used as fertilizer, and by 2030 it aimed to be the main producer for agricultural use; future global stability could depend on Moroccan phosphate.

41. There had been rapid development in the promotion of international cooperation and exchange of experience; in 2017 Morocco had been the major recipient of foreign direct investment in Africa. Among challenges faced, however, technological development did not always encourage job creation. The objectives of the economic development policy included accelerated economic growth and job creation, along with social security protections for the entire population. The goals of the development programme by 2021 included safe drinking water for every citizen and development of the health and education sectors.

42. **Mr. Yanara** (Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the Cambodia Rehabilitation and Development Board), panellist, said that over his two decades of experience in development, he had observed that development cooperation had made a positive impact in Cambodia. The country had undergone a remarkable transformation and had recently been graduated into the group of middle-income countries. There was a strong commitment by the Government to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the promise to leave no one behind. Ownership and a clear vision were the most fundamental building blocks that had allowed significant resources to be mobilized. Official development assistance had complemented domestic resources in the areas of infrastructure, human resources development and institutional reform.

43. The national development cooperation policy identified the main principles and tools to strengthen partnerships. Its main objectives were to use external resources to promote sustainable development in line with the long-term national vision, for capacity building and strengthening of institutions, and to ensure that all development actors were convened in partnerships that were equitable and aimed at broad-based growth. The strategy also set out how development operations were to be managed by clarifying dialogue structures and terms of engagement to ensure inclusive participation. Joint monitoring indicators had been decided in order to ensure transparency and accountability. The cooperation mechanism dated to 2003; key to its success had been sharing of good practices and a results-based approach. An update to the policy was under way that would incorporate South-South and triangular cooperation methods.

44. Turning to the future role of development cooperation in the wider context of the 2030 Agenda, he said that the mid-term review had identified some challenges, with poverty reduction and inclusive growth underlying them all, along with the need for institutional development, economic competitiveness, equality and inclusion. Monitoring systems and capacity were critical to leaving no one behind: information was needed on the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in order to increase understanding of the dynamic of inclusion.

45. The mid-term assessment of development financing had revealed that domestic resources amounted to 20 per cent of GDP, or four times the amount of ODA received. The Government would clearly take the lead role in implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cambodia. The Government would continue to strengthen relationships with all development actors and examine the role of the development cooperation policy in leveraging partnerships as part of its development planning for the coming five years.

46. **The President** said that following the adjournment of the formal meeting, three parallel dialogues would be held under the topic of Session 3, "Getting better results for sustainable development: the role of national development cooperation policies".

47. Dialogue I would be moderated by Ms. Sidiropoulous (Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs); the panellists were Ms. Nasser (Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honduras), Ms. Rheyati (Head of Multilateral Cooperation Service, Division of International Cooperation, Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation, State Secretariat for Sustainable Development, Morocco) and Mr. Chipiko (Member of Parliament, Malawi).

48. Dialogue II would be moderated by Mr. Harris (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), with Mr. Miranda (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation, El Salvador), Mr. Garcia (Vice-Minister for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic), Mr. Ongodo (Director-General for Cooperation and Regional Integration, Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Cameroon) and Mr. Cissé (Member of Parliament, Mali) as panellists.

49. Dialogue III would be moderated by Mr. Illa (Coordinator, Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation, SEGIB), with Ms. Srimaitreephithak (Director-General, International Cooperation Agency, Thailand), Mr. Londono Zurek (Director, Presidential Cooperation Agency, Colombia) and Mr. Romero (Senator, Argentina) as panellists.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Alonso** (Professor of Applied Economics at Complutense University of Madrid), initiating the collective debriefing session on the key messages received thus far in the Development Cooperation Forum, expressed concern at the current state of the development cooperation system. It was worth considering early initiatives in the field, such as the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund, which had been based on very simple rules, and were multilateral and centralized, with developing countries involved in financing and decision-making. However, development cooperation had since been reduced to official development assistance (ODA), and there had been a shift towards a bilateral system with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at its centre. It was necessary to reshape the system, and the origins of development cooperation policy could be used to inspire the reform. The first step in driving international support to serve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was to expand and democratize the system to include both provider and recipient countries. The new system should coordinate all actors to ensure that their proposals and interests were aligned around a set of shared objectives and that all efforts were oriented in a strategic direction, which could only be achieved through collective action. More time should be dedicated to exploring how to build a framework of soft elements to incentivize coordination among actors in an effective and transparent manner.

2. Development cooperation not only had financial requirements, but also implied sharing experience, finding innovative solutions, building capacities and mobilizing political will in different areas. To make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality, the international community must build an effective and transformative global development policy based on coherence between domestic and international policies, with improved alignment between development cooperation and national plans. ODA was an important part of development financing, and could finance investment with high social returns, even if private returns were low. However, many donors wanted to convert it into a mechanism for leveraging private resources, which led to two problems. First, there was a lack of procedures for determining when official resources were complementary to private resources, which could lead to subsidizing private investment and distorting markets. Also, it would be difficult to achieve alignment between public and private priorities, as the orientation of international official funds towards those who were left behind was unlikely to offer mass prospects of short-term commercial returns. Nonetheless, private sector contributions to the 2030 Agenda were crucial. Therefore, public investment in support of the private sector in areas that supported development should be enhanced to offer a more consistent way of ensuring policy coherence.

3. **Mr. Glennie** (Independent Researcher and Writer) said that over the past three years, the 2030 Agenda had become embedded into all discussions relating to aid and development cooperation. The focus on leaving no one behind, inequality between countries and within countries, women and youth, partnerships with multiple stakeholders and the role of the private sector was stronger than ever. The voices of partners from the South had become much bolder, changing attitudes and debates on aid and development cooperation. He expressed concern regarding the role of private money and the subsidizing of private finance with aid. Some $10 billion in ODA was spent every year subsidizing the private sector compared to $500 million spent on domestic resource mobilization, which highlighted a major problem in the way aid was focused from the North. Research had shown that unless there was ownership in recipient countries, there would be no sustainable gains. However, there had been a reduction in the focus on ownership and participation and accountability at the national level in decision-making and implementation of strategies, and attitudes suggested that there had been a loss of momentum. As an example of the remaining challenges, the use of the terms "developed" and "developing" countries was very old-fashioned. While South-South cooperation and participation by the South had strengthened, more remained to be done. The North needed to listen more, and the South needed to be bolder in presenting its expertise, for example on issues of fragility and conflict, with which it had direct experience. The concept of South-South cooperation and horizontality therefore needed to be more firmly embedded. A stronger sense of accountability was necessary, both for South-South cooperation and traditional aid. Personal input and decisions made had an impact in the processes of building and reshaping multilateralism.

Session 4: "Leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development: on the road to the second United Nations conference on South-South cooperation"

4. **Ms. Sidiropoulos** (Chief Executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs), moderator, said that since its origins, South-South cooperation had

made great progress, and was a key dimension of the discussion around sustainable development. The session would focus on the orientation of South-South and triangular cooperation towards building sustainable development frameworks and their comparative advantages; the non-financial strengths of development cooperation, particularly South-South cooperation; sharing experience and best practices between all countries; and the expansion of South-South cooperation. That was a voluntary process and set of engagements, and should not be confused with the responsibilities of North-South cooperation.

5. **Mr. Raimondi** (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina), panellist, said that the second United Nations conference on South-South cooperation had great symbolic value for his country, and would provide a framework conducive to progress in several areas. South-South cooperation could be strengthened by being integrated into national development policies and programmes, in order to enhance the abilities of governmental organizations. Regional platforms such as the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation could contribute to institutional developments and methodologies. It was necessary to assess the best ways in which the United Nations could support such efforts, for example by helping to establish focal points for cooperation, assessing opportunities for the creation of programmes and facilitating partnerships. Triangular and decentralized cooperation frameworks that were sufficiently flexible to allow a wide range of development actors to be involved could be promoted, in line with the new sustainable development agenda. The approach to triangular cooperation must be based on political dialogue and institutional coordination to encourage cooperation agreements in key areas including science, technology and innovation, food security, climate change, disaster risk reduction and gender equality. Decentralized cooperation could also contribute to the effective localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitating the creation of networks and platforms between cities to share experience and knowledge and to increase the involvement of civil society organizations. By improving interregional collaboration there was great potential for the establishment of networks and revision mechanisms between peers, and the coordination of positions in global forums. The work that could be carried out by civil society, multilateral development banks, the private sector and academia could also contribute new skills and forge new connections.

6. Improving the ways in which institutions handled international cooperation and established analysis and information-gathering mechanisms was essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and would strengthen management processes, planning and focusing of resources. Striking a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects would require a transition from the traditional sectoral approach towards increased levels of institutional coordination throughout the project management cycle. Solid political agreements were essential to progress, and Member States must play a proactive role in multilateral discussions and establish better channels for interregional dialogue, identifying areas where consensus could be reached and transforming them into broader agreements, while making the most of the inputs generated by discussions in academia. Argentina would work together with the President of the General Assembly, co-facilitators and all actors involved to build bridges between parties, identify shared work streams and create conditions for constructive dialogue.

7. **Mr. Chenggang** (Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China), panellist, said that over the past four decades, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had achieved remarkable results in terms of promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and advancing South-South cooperation at the global level. China remained committed to reform and to development, including through innovation, coordination, openness and benefit-sharing to enhance alignment with international economic and trade rules, broaden market access, create an attractive domestic investment environment, and enable its development to benefit other countries. Through cooperation with United Nations development agencies over the past 40 years, China had been able to overcome the bottleneck that was impeding its development, and had made progress in multiple areas including agriculture, industry, energy, environmental protection, poverty reduction, health care for women and children and population development, and had also carried out triangular cooperation with the United Nations in other developing countries with positive results. The support provided by the United Nations had promoted development in China, attesting to the success of the Organization's development cooperation efforts.

8. Development required unrelenting efforts from all countries. The keys to overcoming various challenges were cooperation, commitment and change. All countries needed to uphold the spirit of international cooperation, support multilateralism and work together

in tackling challenges. The gap between the North and the South constituted an unsustainable imbalance in the international economy, and was a source of both turmoil and instability. Poverty reduction should remain the core task of development cooperation. Commitment was necessary, and both developed and developing countries needed to take action to fulfil their respective duties. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility for development financing, and effectively implement their ODA commitments, particularly through increasing assistance to the least developed countries. While South-South cooperation had played an increasingly important role in international development cooperation in recent years, developing countries could only show the responsibilities corresponding to their level of development and actual capacity. The responsibilities, principles and standards applicable to North-South cooperation should not be imposed on South-South cooperation. Change and innovation were the fundamental forces driving progress.

9. The international community needed to respect the efforts of developing countries to explore their own strategies for providing targeted support, and help them to enhance their own development capacities. Parties to South-South cooperation should be encouraged to enhance experience, share results and jointly explore new ideas for the advancement of South-South cooperation. China had firmly supported and actively participated in South-South cooperation, assisting other developing countries to the best of its ability, through funding and through projects in areas such as infrastructure building, agriculture development, medical care, poverty reduction and capacity-building. Issues of poverty, imbalance and inadequate development remained prominent in China, but development efforts would continue, and he expected the international community to increase cooperation. China would take concrete action to promote economic globalization to benefit people worldwide, including through the China International Import Expo, and would continue to fulfil its assistance commitments and share its development experience with others to help them to implement the 2030 Agenda.

10. **Mr. García-López** (Executive Director of the Mexican Agency of International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico), panellist, said that Mexico had been working towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by defining a national strategy, including the alignment of programme and budget frameworks; by establishing a national council coordinating federal ministries, local governments and international organizations in consultation with civil society and the private sector; and by creating a specialized technical committee to define and monitor national statistical indicators to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Mexican Agency of International Development Cooperation had played an integral role in defining the strategy and follow-up actions at the national level. International cooperation was an instrument that complemented and strengthened other flows, including the mobilization of fiscal resources, domestic and foreign investment, open and rules-based international trade, sustainable access to credit and technical, horizontal cooperation. While each country was responsible for its own development process, international cooperation was a useful instrument for supporting national development priorities. In accordance with the mandate of the 2030 Agenda, it was essential to build strategies that responded to the specific needs of countries at different stages of their transition towards development.

11. The recent establishment of the network for strengthening of national capacities for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean aimed to share experience and strengthen capacities of countries in the region and extraregional members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which would help support participation in constructing national strategies, statistical capabilities and the alignment of international cooperation strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals. The second United Nations conference on South-South cooperation would offer the opportunity to join the rest of the cooperation system and provide instruments to tackle the development challenges faced by everyone. The 2030 Agenda had demonstrated that there were certain challenges faced by all countries — migration, gender, climate change and the rise of technology — that could only be tackled by working together and by assisting countries at their various stages of development.

12. The systematization of South-South cooperation required methodologies for effective implementation, aligned with the needs of beneficiaries, and actions must be monitored and evaluated to foster a culture of accountability. It was necessary to take advantage of the strengths of all actors, including civil society, local governments, parliamentarians and the private sector, in the design and implementation of cooperation. There should also be improved coordination with traditional donors to make triangular and trilateral cooperation more efficient and to ensure that traditional and South-South cooperation strengthened one another. It was important to share best practices for cooperation

methodologies, and to work together to build a new paradigm for cooperation. Trilateral cooperation offered new ways of working together horizontally and of cooperating not only with donor countries, but with all partners, including non-governmental organizations and the agencies of the United Nations.

13. **Mr. Almino** (Director of the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation), panellist, said that South-South cooperation needed a strategic focus, on autonomy, sustainability and structural change in particular, and a comprehensive framework, taking into account the different situations in various developing countries.

14. Each country could bring its own strengths to cooperation. Whether contributions were modest, substantial, or non-financial in nature, flexibility was important to ensure that any country could contribute, and to increase the potential for cooperation. Brazil had been working to strengthen institutions for cooperation in developing countries, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), by examining specific instruments. The principles of South-South cooperation discussed at the Buenos Aires conference were still valid. It was very important for countries to establish systems to quantify, evaluate and measure cooperation, taking into account qualitative aspects. Monetization was not always the most important factor; sometimes the transfer of policies could have very significant results.

15. **Mr. Gehlen** (Head of Division on Effectiveness and Transparency; Quality Standards and International Development Policy of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany), panellist, said that development issues were linked to resources and to knowledge. Changes to the approach to collaboration were necessary in order to share the right knowledge to solve specific problems. In Germany, the main resource was human capacity, and his country traditionally used its experts to help solve problems all over the world. However, expertise on the challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable growth was emerging worldwide. In order to implement development cooperation, Germany had created institutional frameworks and listened to the expertise of countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia and the Philippines, constructing and supporting links between emerging economies and low-income countries, which had been a successful approach. It was therefore very important to find a specific, and not necessarily a traditional, role to play as a development practitioner. Creating and reforming procedures and institutions to show responsibility and to measure impact was crucial, and was being considered in every exercise related to development cooperation. Efficiency was more important than the balance sheet, given that the work related to poverty and the lives of people.

16. **Ms. Padilla** (Executive Director of IBON International Foundation), panellist, said that South-South cooperation was an effective way of rebalancing power relations in international development cooperation. However, it should complement rather than substitute for ODA. The core principles of South-South cooperation should be applied at the national level, and the countries of the South should define their modes of operation. It was important to develop institutionalized mechanisms at the local and national levels in relation to South-South cooperation, and to ensure there was genuine participation by the intended beneficiaries. It was also important to monitor solidarity and democratic ownership. South-South development cooperation must contribute to a comprehensive, locally owned national strategy that developed agriculture, industry and services in an integrated, sustainable manner. There should be democratic frameworks for South-South cooperation to enable Southern countries to define the norms and standards applicable to them, involving the interests of the people throughout the process.

17. **Ms. Cederfelt** (Member of Parliament, Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the involvement of parliamentarians at the national and international levels was essential in ensuring the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda , particularly with regard to poverty reduction, national ownership, and South-South and triangular cooperation.

18. **Ms. Bayr** (Member of Parliament, Austria), speaking on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, asked panellists to share their views on how the global North could contribute towards a fruitful environment for South-South and triangular cooperation.

19. **Mr. Asthana** (India) said that the purpose of South-South cooperation was not to be a vehicle for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; rather, it was a voluntary partnership based on solidarity and mutual benefit. Developing countries should develop measurement systems that were specific to given projects, with the partners in question determining what should be monitored and evaluated, and whether a project had achieved its goals. Developed countries should better monitor fulfilment of ODA commitments and other forms of support to developing countries, instead of seeking to quantify or focus on evaluation and monitoring. Monitoring, measuring or evaluating needed to be project-specific and should not be situated within a framework of compliance.

20. **Mr. Fialho Rocha** (Cabo Verde) said that his country had experience both as a beneficiary and a participant in South-South and triangular cooperation. He therefore recognized the significant potential of such types of cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in acting not as a substitute, but as a complement to North-South cooperation. He asked what could be done to increase the efficiency of South-South cooperation and to take it to the level of North-South cooperation with regard to policy delivery, organization, funding and implementation. In triangular cooperation, it was very important to keep the funding, provider and beneficiary partners at the same level. The cost of transportation for technical assistance was a significant issue for South-South cooperation.

21. **Mr. Momeni** (Iran) said that the upcoming conference in Buenos Aires was a critical moment. He asked the panellists to explain their expectations regarding the role of the United Nations system in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation.

22. **Ms. Vives Balmaña** (Andorra) said that inclusion, integration and attention to the most vulnerable groups were priorities as part of the policy of leaving no one behind. Multilateralism was part of cooperation, and provided the opportunity for visibility, experience and exchange. She asked how coordination could be enhanced between all the entities involved in South-South cooperation.

23. **Mr. González Peña** (Cuba) said that it was important to reiterate that the principles which characterized South-South cooperation were solidarity, complementarity, equality, non-conditionality and respect for sovereignty. South-South cooperation should not be considered as ODA as it was a complement and not a substitute for North-South cooperation. The way in which developed and developing countries were defined was central to the discussion and was one of the reasons the need for strengthened South-South cooperation was being addressed.

24. **Ms. Pape** (European Union) said that South-South cooperation made an important contribution towards the 2030 Agenda. South-South cooperation could be used to assist fragile contexts that had increasing levels of poverty, and the examples of international dialogue for peacebuilding and State-building and the role of the Group of Seven Plus should be considered. As South-South cooperation was complementary and did not replace traditional North-South cooperation, the European Union maintained its commitment to reaching the 0.7 per cent ODA/GNI target, and was determined to promote more trilateral cooperation. The principles of country ownership, results orientation, real partnership and transparency, including reporting on ODA flows, should be observed.

25. **Mr. Nair** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that ILO considered its cooperation with the United Nations system on South-South and triangular cooperation to be very important, and had been valuable in its broader scheme of work. In 2012, ILO had adopted a strategy that addressed various aspects of work, and focused on increasing awareness and capacity-building, and on the wider engagement of stakeholders, with a view to achieving the decent work agenda. Strengthening of South-South cooperation would be discussed at the forthcoming International Labour Conference. There would be a focus on the following areas: advancing the decent work agenda by engaging with an increasing number of governments; addressing emerging needs and trends in international cooperation and cross-regional peer learning in a timely manner; strengthening awareness and capacity of workers and employers; the achievements of regional United Nations initiatives; the decent work agenda across the United Nations system; regional, subregional and interregional programming and networking; contributing to fragile-to-fragile cooperation initiatives; cooperation between least developed countries and small island developing States; and economic development, particularly at the local level.

26. **Ms. Avagyan** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO had set up an information platform for its member countries, showcasing institutions of the South working in the field of food security and agricultural development, and thereby facilitating the sharing of experience and good practices. Finding funds for carrying out exchanges was a challenge, and therefore leveraging the strengths of different State and non-State actors was crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Joint efforts by the Rome-based United Nations agencies had included the creation of a joint road map consisting of a concrete action plan for the lead-up to the second United Nations conference on South-South cooperation. In order to effectively respond to the growing demand for such cooperation, collaboration between organizations and Member States was necessary.

27. **Mr. Fadl** (Sudan) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change had led to changes in North-South and South-South cooperation. His Government had collaborated with the UNOSSC and contributed to South-South cooperation, notably in Africa, Asia and the Arab countries. Development continued to be hindered by conflict and the disparities in levels of development in certain regions. Such challenges could

be countered by focusing on successful examples of South-South cooperation, improving policies to allow Sudan to play a broader role in South-South and triangular cooperation, and strengthening institutions and frameworks. Governments should strengthen policies and strategies for development cooperation, and the policy of the Paris Agreement should be applied at the national level with a view to ensuring broader cooperation.

Session 5: "Bridging capacity gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer in strategic areas"

28. **Mr. Lewis** (Assistant Director, Institute for Capacity Development, International Monetary Fund), moderator, said that the discussion would focus on the thematic areas of domestic revenue mobilization and statistics and data, which had been core areas for the Agenda for Development and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in terms of capacity-building. A major challenge was establishing more integrated national approaches to development revenue mobilization strategies, which could include a long-term perspective articulated in a medium-term revenue strategy, and could be responsive to the short-term revenue and resource needs of countries. Statistics were central to the 2030 Agenda, and were necessary both for monitoring and for delivering progress. Equipping policymakers with statistics and data enabled them to execute and implement the positive change they strived to achieve. He would be interested to hear how development partners could provide support while allowing reforms to be country-led, particularly in the most fragile countries, and how technology could be harnessed to make progress in the areas of revenue mobilization and statistics and data. Another key theme for discussion was sustainability, and how it could be achieved along with ownership by continuing to build on the progress made.

29. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), panellist, said that if there was an increase in the pace of implementing global, regional and technical cooperation strategies, resources would emerge to fund the 2030 Agenda . However, there was variation in the approaches, modalities and scope of technical cooperation initiatives, which could lead to some issues. Multilateral development banks and other ODA providers were working to establish institutionalized platforms and initiatives. She wondered whether providers were coordinated to ensure policy consistency and coherence in delivery within the taxation system, and whether allocations were currently adequate.

30. Tax reforms were very costly, and to ensure effective accountability and results, tax reform proposals for domestic resource mobilization should be backed by international financial programmes. It would be helpful for projects to offer tax policy advice as well as looking at whether resources would be raised following tax reform. The 2030 Agenda must address issues of equity, and consider how investment decisions and priorities could be influenced through tax regimes, and how the tax system could be used to address challenges or Sustainable Development Goals that required appropriate pricing mechanisms. In light of ODA limitations, high priority should be given to regions and countries with low tax-to-GDP ratios.

31. She congratulated the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the project "Transforming Tax Systems in Developing Countries: Introducing the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy", which had a comprehensive, modular approach, including tax structure diagnostics supported by policy and tax administration reform proposals. Expanding tax coverage and rationalizing and abolishing generous and distortive tax incentive regimes was critical. Tax evasion opportunities should be curbed, as they led to very high tax expenditure costs. It was important for economies to harness their tax potential, which was linked to how diversified they were, and to their level of formality. Informal economies did not lend themselves to an increase in resource mobilization.

32. There was a significant demand for capacity-building for the implementation of the international base erosion and profit shifting treaty at the national and regional levels. In recent years, the task had been complicated by cross-border value chains, the digital economy and tax competition. Domestic resource mobilization should draw upon the potential of private resources, which would provide a significant contribution to sustainable development. It was therefore necessary to foster capacities to enable a policy environment, and to develop and diversify capital markets. Cross-border cooperation was critical for the promotion of capital flows through harmonization of accepted regulatory norms and standards. In Asia, greater support was needed for market initiatives, and there should be a dedicated platform of capital markets. One important area that was missing from the discussion of domestic resource mobilization was local and municipal finance.

33. **Mr. Watts** (Senior Analyst of Development Initiatives), panellist, said that domestic revenue

mobilization was a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda. However, progress had been insufficient over the previous three years, for reasons including the decline in commodity prices, issues with reforms, and different situations in terms of climate and politics, and presented one of the key policy challenges for developing country governments. Much of the focus on domestic revenue mobilization had been on how to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio and how to build the capacity of revenue authorities. However, there should be greater focus on judicial and regulatory reform, and on the availability of data. An integrated approach should be central to discussions. Revenue mobilization was related to State capacity to deliver services and to have a social contract with citizens and business. At the country level, the focus should be on empowering governments to implement reforms that were specific to their needs.

34. **Mr. Chege** (Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission), panellist, said that in order to fully implement and monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, high-quality, timely and sufficiently disaggregated data was required. Significant efforts were therefore needed to strengthen data collection and statistical capacity. The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data provided a road map for the modernization and strengthening of national statistical systems. Challenges remained in terms of coordination between multiple stakeholders and the need for increased domestic resources and international support. It was necessary for countries to align their strategic plans for statistics with the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. Internationally led efforts should promote an environment in which national statistical authorities were at the centre of initiatives. In order to translate the commitment to leaving no one behind into action, a more precise understanding of the needs and circumstances of target populations was necessary, through access to the relevant data. There should be more investment in skills and technology, both among the national statistics authorities, and at the global level.

35. **Mr. Hollingworth** (President and Chief Executive Officer of the Grameen Foundation), panellist, said that his organization focused consistently on the poor, and particularly on how financial inclusion with other basic services could address poverty. Significant advances in technology had meant that financial services could be delivered at a low cost to the poorest people in the world in remote areas by using mobile money platforms. The availability of digital data information was presenting new opportunities for understanding the issues that poor people faced in a more nuanced and personalized manner. Information on health, agriculture, small business development and financial inclusion could be supplied to outreach workers, supporting organizations and the poor themselves to help optimize the decisions they made. The Grameen Foundation worked primarily in the areas of agriculture, health and digital financial services, and provided technology platforms that aimed to place the poor in networks that offered them access to information. It was important to consider how the poor could be protected, for example, by ensuring that mobile money platforms were interoperable, by having a legislative framework in place, and by developing codes of conduct that promoted transparency, data privacy, complaint resolution, the prevention of indebtedness and pricing for credit. Data offered new opportunities for the poor in terms of their identity and ability to participate in the marketplace.

36. **Ms. Vignolo** (Uruguay) said that since 2005, her country had been promoting inclusive development to reduce inequality and to ensure a good quality of life for the population. However, it was necessary to direct a high volume of financial resources towards social and income distribution policies. Some countries had limited resources, and therefore needed to define their priorities. Uruguay had prioritized eradicating poverty and building a fairer society, and while it had focused less on innovation, science and technology, progress had also been made in those areas. It was necessary to redefine policies in order to move forward and further reduce inequality. More coherence was needed in the United Nations system for the promotion of multidimensional development. Support and cooperation were very important, in terms of knowledge and expertise as well as finance.

37. **Mr. Asthana** (India) said that domestic resource mobilization was in the domain of national sovereignty, and caution should be exercised regarding the extent to which policies were prescribed for countries. The increasingly globalized nature of businesses meant that policies required international cooperation and strengthened institutional arrangements. The implementation of a truly universal agenda would require a platform where all countries had an equal voice on issues relating to international taxation, which only the United Nations could provide. The determining of global taxation standards must be made more inclusive and transparent. The absence of adequate global cooperation on certain issues including money-laundering was a constraint, and international cooperation was needed to address such issues and help all countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It was necessary to address the issue of revenue loss in developing countries as a result of the transfer pricing policies of multinationals.

Developing countries were often required to adhere to standards defined by the developed world, and thus his country had advocated stronger international taxation rules and an intergovernmental tax body. A technology facilitation mechanism should be created, which had been called for at the United Nations Conference on the Financing of Development, but had yet to gain traction.

38. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that his country had taken several actions to enhance its domestic resource mobilization capacity, including an initiative on tax transformation for the Sustainable Development Goals, with the objective of enhancing institutional capacity for tax administrations. The issue of limited capacity was a challenge that developing countries continued to face. He asked how international cooperation for developing countries was assessed, and whether it was coordinated, particularly in terms of being consistent with national development priorities.

39. **Ms. Ghartey** (Ghana) said that she would like to hear more about the challenge of controlling expenditure in the context of domestic resource mobilization. She also requested clarification on the methods for measuring ODA under the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development initiative. She highlighted the launch of a national mobile money interoperability system in Ghana.

40. **Mr. Almino** (Brazil) said that it was necessary to bridge capacity gaps and facilitate technology development and transfer in the area of data collection and methodology. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the governments of Cabo Verde and Senegal, Brazil had been creating census dissemination centres using electronic data collection in Africa. The initiative aimed to develop the capacity of statistics institutes in African countries and had the potential to contribute to the generation of reliable data in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

41. **Ms. Mustafa** (Member of Parliament, Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the negotiations between governments and donors regarding tax and financial reforms did not take the specific circumstances of countries into consideration, and led to more people being introduced into the circle of poverty than exiting it. The social aspect of discussions within the forum should not be overlooked.

42. **Mr. Watts** (Senior Analyst of Development Initiatives) said that there was a significant difference in scale between the ODA for domestic resource mobilization and the actual need. How ODA was used and where it should be targeted were areas for consideration, and if ODA was unable to fulfil the requirements to build capacity in certain countries, then other potential methods could be considered. ODA was typically given as technical cooperation, and different providers were contributing different types of systems and capacity-building on different standards, which was leading to fragmentation. Building State capacity was at the heart of domestic revenue mobilization, and it was therefore necessary for States to drive their own reform agenda, which required strong leadership and a strong commitment plan around which development partners could coordinate.

43. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that the question was how the Sustainable Development Agenda could be mainstreamed within the public expenditure programme. There were serious issues surrounding the misallocation of public expenditure, and in terms of developing effective medium-term expenditure frameworks. Some countries lacked the necessary expertise, and project implementation was often ineffective due to management issues, delays in payment or cases of corruption. In addition to revenue mobilization, public expenditure was necessary. Effective allocation of resources was a starting point, but it was also necessary to have stringent processes, procedures and financial advisors in place to provide oversight on spending.

44. **Mr. Chege** (Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission) said that the contribution of Brazil to development in Africa was a good example of South-South cooperation; it had included the donation of tablet computers to assist countries in undertaking a digital census. There was a new ongoing initiative under the United Nations Statistical Commission for the development of a financing mechanism on sustainable data, looking at how to improve financing, as significant resources were needed to produce the data required for the Sustainable Development Goals.

45. **Mr. Lewis** (Assistant Director, Institute for Capacity Development, International Monetary Fund) said that a comprehensive approach was important for the themes of statistics and revenue mobilization; issues such as gender, inequality and climate should be fully integrated into the work. Countries could use technology as a vehicle to make significant changes, but it would need to be inserted into a broader institutional framework that was responsive to the needs of the country.

46. **Mr. Chege** (Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission) said that it was necessary to better coordinate development efforts, and to build capacity in terms of skills, technology and resources.

47. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that taxpayers were very important, but stakeholders also needed to be involved, including the public, the business community and politicians, as tax reform proposals were often shut down at the political level. Responding to the representative of India, she said that resistance to reform was not an issue of sovereignty.

48. **Mr. Hollingworth** (President and Chief Executive Officer of the Grameen Foundation) said that it was necessary to be prepared for data becoming a commodity, as it would become valuable to various actors, particularly in the private sector. Steps must be taken to protect the interests of the poor and to consider government regulation in relation to data.

49. **Mr. Watts** (Senior Analyst of Development Initiatives) said that in a digitized world, it was necessary to move towards using new technologies. The way in which support was provided by development partners had an impact on domestic revenue mobilization. It was important for there to be policy coherence, and development partners needed to look at their wider structures and processes.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.